

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to enhance the interlayer effect in direct positive light-sensitive materials without delaying color development.

Another object of the present invention is to improve color reproducibility by enhancing the interlayer effect in the case of obtaining a direct positive image using an internal latent image-forming emulsion.

These and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from the following description thereof.

It has now been discovered that the above-described and other objects of the present invention are attained by a direct positive color light-sensitive material which comprises a support having thereon at least one internal latent image-forming silver halide emulsion layer containing non-prefogged silver halide grains and which contains at least one color image-forming coupler capable of producing or releasing a non-diffusible or diffusible dye upon oxidative coupling with a color developing agent, with at least one layer different from the internal latent image-forming silver halide emulsion layer containing a surface latent image-forming, negative-working silver halide emulsion and with at least one of the negative-working silver halide emulsion layer and an interlayer adjacent thereto containing at least one compound capable of releasing a fogging agent, a fogging agent precursor, a development promoter or a development promoter precursor in proportion to the amount of developed silver of the negative-working silver halide emulsion upon development processing using an aromatic primary amine developing agent.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A method of reverse-imagewise inhibiting development of an internal latent image-forming emulsion layer by incorporating a DIR compound into a negative-working emulsion layer is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,846,128. In the present invention, when the negative-working silver halide emulsion is developed, FA's or FR compounds are imagewise released. The FA's or FR compounds released diffuse to the internal latent image-forming emulsion layer and reverse-imagewise promote development of the internal latent image-forming emulsion layer.

The negative-working silver halide emulsion and the internal latent image-forming silver halide emulsion, the development of which is promoted reverse-imagewise by the negative-working silver halide emulsion, are desirably spectrally sensitized to substantially different spectral regions.

For example, in the case of providing a red-sensitive negative-working emulsion layer, it is preferably provided in such a position that it can reverse imagewise promote development of an internal latent image-forming emulsion layer having sensitivity to other than red light, for example, to green and/or blue light.

Further, another internal latent image-forming emulsion layer spectrally sensitized to the same spectral region as the negative-working silver halide emulsion layer is preferably provided separately in the light-sensitive material.

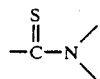
Two or more negative-working silver halide emulsion layers may be provided in the light-sensitive material.

The negative-working silver halide emulsion layer may contain diffusion-resistant reducing agents capable of capturing an oxidation product of a developing agent, for example, dihydroxybenzene derivatives described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,336,327, 2,360,290, 2,403,721, 3,700,453, and 2,701,197 and JP-A-46-2128, JP-A-54-29637, JP-A-53-9528 (The term "JP-A" as used herein means an "unexamined published Japanese patent application"), 2,5-disulfon-amidophenols described in *Research Disclosure*, No. 18143 or N-alkyl- or N-aryl-benzisoxazolones described in *ibid.*, No. 18144. In addition, it is desirable to provide a light-insensitive layer containing a hydrophilic polymer (for example, gelatin) 0.05 to 5 μm , preferably 0.1 to 3 μm , in dry thickness between the negative-working silver halide emulsion layer and the internal latent image-forming silver halide emulsion layer. This light-insensitive layer may contain the above-described reducing agents.

The negative-working silver halide emulsion layer is desirably positioned nearer to the support than the internal latent image-forming silver halide emulsion layer nearest the support, and/or positioned farther from the support than the internal latent image-forming silver halide emulsion layer farthest from the support.

Heretofore, compounds capable of releasing a fogging agent, a fogging agent precursor, a development promoter or a development promoter precursor (hereinafter referred to as "FR compounds") have been practically used mainly in color photographic films for photographic use in order to obtain color photographic pictures having high maximum image density and good gradation. It has also been proposed to use them in photographic papers for color prints (color papers) (see, for example, U.S. Patent 4,390,618). However, these relate to negative emulsions which form a latent image mainly on the surface of silver halide grains, and nothing has been taught as to the solution of technical problems specific to internal latent image-forming, direct positive emulsions which form a latent image mainly within the interior of silver halide grains (for example, improvement of interlayer effect) by combining negative-working emulsions with the FR compounds.

Fogging agent's, fogging agent precursors, development promoters or development promoter precursors hereinafter refers to "FA". Fogging agents or development promoters include, for example, reductive compounds (e.g., hydrazine, hydrazide, hydrazone, hydroquinone, catechol, p-aminophenol, p-phenylenediamine, 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidinone, enamine, aldehyde, polyamine, acetylene, aminoborane, quaternary salts such as tetrazolium salts and ethylenebispyridinium salts, and carbazinic acid) and compounds capable of forming silver sulfide upon development (e.g., thiourea and compounds of the structure



such as thioamide, dithiocarbamate, rhodanine, thiohydantoin or thiazolidinethione).

The FR compounds to be used in the present invention include the following:

(i) couplers capable of releasing FA or a precursor thereof upon coupling with an oxidation product of an aromatic primary amine developing agent;